



Attendance Strategic Messaging - Parents

Statistical data and strategic messages for parents:

- **Stats:**
 - One day of missed school = as many as three days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed information and skills.
 - Chronically absent students on average score 15 – 20% lower on state assessments than students who attend school more regularly. (BERC consortium at John's Hopkins 2009 study)
 - Nearly one in 10 kindergarten and first grade students misses a month of school every year!
 - The earlier a student begins to have attendance problems, the greater the impact on achievement. Academic expectations in kindergarten and first grade have stepped up since “parents” were students. No longer should parents use the excuse, “It’s just kindergarten. They are not going to miss rocket science.”
 - Students with poor kindergarten attendance rates, missing 10 days or more, gained roughly 14% fewer literacy skills than their peers with average attendance rates. (Douglas D. Ready, Columbia University, Why Early Absences Hit Low-Income Kids Harder, November 2010).
 - Students with a 80% attendance rate (or lower) in 6th grade have an on-time graduation rate of only 5-13%
 - 90% of youth in juvenile detention have a history of chronic absenteeism (Colorado foundation for Families and Children. (2002) Youth out of school: Linking absence to delinquency.)

- **Why is it so important to attend school every day?**
 - Research has proven a high correlation between regular school attendance and successful academic performance.
 - School attendance lays the foundation for whether children will graduate or drop-out of high school.
 - Absence from school is the greatest cause of poor academic achievement.
 - Learning is progressive. Students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. Each day’s lessons build on the previous days.
 - Lectures, discussions, learning activities, and social interactions cannot be made up!

- Regular school attendance encourages the development of responsibility.
 - Absenteeism hurts all students in the class! Students who are absent require more of the teacher's time and attention which takes away from regular instruction.
 - In some states, the financial support for schools is directly linked to student attendance. When students are absent, the school loses money which will impact instruction and the availability of educational resources.
- **How can parents help?**
 - Parents must model the value of education INCLUDING the importance of regular education.
 - Arrange family trips, activities and vacations during school holidays so that children miss as little school as possible.
 - Schedule doctor and dental appointments in hours either prior to school or after school.
 - Establish good routines at home to ensure on-time arrival at school every day.
 - Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of missing school.
 - Take an interest in your child's school work and be ACTIVELY involved in the school. Your child will value school more if you do.
 - Ensure healthy habits at home to decrease the likelihood of illness. Make sure students are regularly eating nutritious meals and drinking plenty of fluids, and encourage good hand-washing procedures.